



Start of Joseph Preuss Collection

AR 357

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Joseph Prew: collection, 11412-1947

K 2/3

2135 (loc:V4/-)

Preuss, Joseph, Dr. AR-A.167

1. Shanghai Municipal Council Certificate 357
of Registration Dec.7, 1942
photocopy of print with typewr, also
Chinese 1p

2. Essoyan, Roy "Kaifeng Jews isolated for
1800 years, Dr. Preuss declares" Shanghai
Evening Post & Mercury Oct.29, 1947
newsp.clip 1p

Arzt

1.Name 2.Berufe, Aerzte 3.Urkunde, ~~Doktor~~-Registration
4.Juden, Laender, S China



Shanghai Municipal Council

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

No. 310

Date: December 7th 1942.

CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION

This is to Certify that Dr. Joseph PREUSS
is registered with this Department, and is qualified to practice in the
International Settlement of Shanghai under the regulations of the Shanghai
Municipal Council as a Medical Practitioner.

Y. L. L.
Commissioner of Public Health



第 三 〇 號

中華民國三十一年十二月七日

衛生處處長 田代良一

證書以資證明

本局 醫 師 登 記 條 例 資 格
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證書 經本處審核與

登記證書

上海公共租界
工部局衛生處

Kaifeng Jews Isolated For 1800 Years, Dr. Preuss Declares

By ROY ESSOYAN

(Associated Press Correspondent)

The Kaifeng Jews, one of the lost races of history, were isolated from the rest of the world for some 18 centuries, according to recent investigations into their origin by Dr. Joseph Preuss of Shanghai.

Descendants of silk traders from the Mediterranean, the Kaifeng Jews settled in the heart of China—according to some records—before the Christian era. They founded their synagogues and worshipped their "one true God" until about 400 years ago.

After that, Dr. Preuss told The Associated Press in a recent interview, they gradually became assimilated by the Chinese people around them.

To Deliver Lecture

Dr. Preuss, a Shanghai physician, has been engaged for the past six months in exhaustive research into the origin, history and fate of what he calls "China's forgotten Jews." He intends to publish his findings in the near future and deliver a lecture on the subject at the Jewish community center in Shanghai on Tuesday.

"Chinese history shows that the people of China have a tremendous power to absorb alien races dwelling in their midst," Bishop William C. White of Kaifeng once said, "and it is a miracle that the Kaifeng Jews managed to maintain their separate institutions and beliefs for as long as 18 centuries."

The Kaifeng Jews, according to other expert opinion quoted by Dr. Preuss, first entered China as traders over the land route from central Asia. During the period of the Roman Empire, representatives of Jewish colonies in Persia developed the silk trade with China over the caravan route. Starting down the Euphrates, through Persia and Turkestan, the route led to two terminus points in China—Peking and Kaifeng.

The silk trade continued to thrive until the Sixth Century when Europe introduced the silk worm and began to produce its own silk. Later the sea route to the Far East was developed, the caravan route fell into disuse and the Jews who had settled in the interior of China found themselves isolated from their country of origin.

Communities Formed

"It was only natural," says Dr. Preuss, "that in the larger trading centers Jewish traders had settled down and formed communities. We must assume that they entered China not in a single stream of immigration but in small detachments, partly to join relatives or friends, or because they were forced to leave Persia owing to racial discrimination by the Sassanid Persian Kings."

Dr. Preuss says he has been able to find little reliable information about the earliest communities. The most important documents, according to him, are some stone tablets discovered in Kaifeng. An inscription on one of these, dated 1512, says that the first Jews came to China during the Han Dynasty (206 B.C. to 221 A.D.). Another says they arrived in the Chou Dynasty (before 255 B.C.). A third records the arrival of 70 clans in the Sung Dynasty. Clay figures of the Tang

Dynasty (618 to 907 A.D.), a few of which Dr. Preuss has been able to unearth after months of browsing around antique and curio shops depict non-Chinese in foreign attire.

"These figures were used for tomb burials by Chinese who wanted to be comforted in the future world not only by their earthly possessions but also by their foreign tradesmen," Dr. Preuss says.

Semitic Features

The faces on some of these figures, including those in Dr. Preuss' collection, show distinctly Semitic features and probably represent Jewish silk traders of that time.

Other important documents indicating that the Jews used the old caravan route include a paper sheet of passages from the Psalms and the Prophet, in Hebrew, discovered in Tun Huang on the southern route in eastern Turkestan. It dates back to the Eighth Century and is the oldest Hebrew manuscript in existence.

"As paper at that time was made only in China," says Dr. Preuss, "it proves that Jewish traders from China were using that route."

Hebrew Inscriptions

Three Hebrew stone inscriptions found in Loyang in Honan province, also on the caravan route, have been traced to the end of the Han Dynasty.

Other groups of Jewish communities were known to have settled along the China coast, at Canton, Amoy, Foochow, Ningpo and Hangchow, but these groups, according to Dr. Preuss, had probably arrived later, over the maritime route.

Some historians have assumed that the Jews had entered China only by this sea route, and then from the coast had advanced to Kaifeng. Dr. Preuss says, however, that such a

theory is highly improbable because of the enormous distances to be covered and the extremely difficult and primitive traveling conditions in ancient China, especially for foreigners.

"Besides," he says, "in such a case the largest Jewish communities would have developed along the coast and not in the interior of China."

In Kaifeng the Jewish faith was known as Tiao Chin Chiao, or "the religion that plucks out the sinews," probably in derision of the Jews' kosher practices. Dr. Preuss has been unable to find a term for "Jew" or "Hebrew" in any of the inscriptions in Kaifeng. The word "Israel" was used to designate both the religion and its followers.

The calendar and festivals of the Chinese Jews were the same as those of the western Jews. They celebrated the Jewish New Year, the Day of Atonement, Passover and Pentecost, the feasted regularly and they repented their sins.

The synagogue, center of the Jewish community, was built in 1163, according to inscription found on some tablets. But, says Dr. Preuss, there are indications that a synagogue existed before that date. It was damaged by flood and fire and rebuilt several times.

AND TRADE

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Modest Gain
Net; Final
Aid Irregular

(Reuter)—Recovery efforts light but persistent profit-ices scored gains covering the

Rails led the movement, followed by selected steels, woollens, oils, farm implements, motors and specialties. Good corporate news and the increased dividend of Norfolk and Western provided the main incentive. The industrial average at noon was 183.44 and the rails 49.70.

Rather timid follow-through trading ensued and numerous issues shedded a part or all of their early improvement, leaving the market with only on balance gains. Support was good for rails, steels and department stores. Expectations of a stable U.S. Steel Corporation after the close today and the Steel Corp. on Thursday led steels, while department stores benefitted from a factory estimate of Mont-Ward's probable 1947

London
Stock Mart

LONDON, Oct. 28 (Reuter)—South African gold mining shares again have been of major interest on the stock market today, although there was none of the sharp movements which followed the disclosures of the New Union Goldfields yesterday. Dealings have been more limited and the steadiness was attributed to bear covering.

Although there has been a good deal said about the possibility of "freezing" these dealings, there is still no sign of official action being taken or having been asked. However, the market is still in a very sensitive state and this feeling of uncertainty also is showing itself among South African industrialists.

Market circles anticipate there will be further attempts at bear selling when the new account starts tomorrow.

The remainder of the markets were showing no particular trend except British Funds, which resumed their steady climb to higher levels, assisted by funds which left the industrial market for some better class gold mining and now were leaving these issues on account of the uncertain position.

| | Oct. 27 | Oct. 28 |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Int. Nickel | 45 | 45-3/16 |
| Canad. Pacific | 17-1/2 | 17-1/4 |
| Bank of Montreal | 7-9/16 | 7-8/16 |
| Consols. 2 1/4 % | 88-1/4 | 88-3/8 |
| War Loan 3 1/2 % | 102-11/16 | 102-11/16 |
| War Loan 3 % | 102-3/8 | 102-5/8 |
| German Loan 7 1/2 % | 7-1/2 | 7-1/2 |
| Eastern Bank | 8-1/8 | 8-1/8 |
| Lloyds Bank "B" | 61/3 | 61/3 |
| Mercantile Bank | 21 | 21 |
| British Burmah | 5-1/4 | 5-1/4 |
| Conso. Tin Mines | 3/- | 3/- |
| Jap. Bonds 5 % | 29 | 29 |
| Jap. Bonds 6 % | 29-1/2 | 29-1/2 |
| S. Manchurian | 27 | 27 |
| Chartered Bank | 10-11/16 | 10-11/16 |
| H. & S. Bkg. | 113-1/2 | 113-1/2 |
| National Bank | 31-3/4 | 32 |
| Stand. Motors | 32-1/2 | 32-1/2 |
| Marks & Spencer | 65-7/8 | 65-7/8 |
| Elec. & Musical | 17/9 | 17/9 |
| Pinchin Johnson | 54-1/2 | 54-3/4 |

Price, Wage
Curb Urged
By Ramadier

PARIS, Oct. 28—(UP)—Prime Minister Paul Ramadier warned today that France must at all costs halt the present wage-price inflation spiral and said economic difficulties are at the bottom of her present troubles.

Ramadier attacked Gen. Charles de Gaulle as an enemy of the Republic and denounced the French Communists for pursuing ends contrary to the safety of the country.

"There will be civil war and it will be the ruin of France" if the nation should split into two camps, Ramadier warned. His reference plainly was to the violently antagonistic leaderships of de Gaulle and the Communists.

Ramadier lashed out at both de Gaulle and the Communists, two of the greatest forces in France which have caught the administration between them.

The National Assembly was thrown into uproar by the Socialist Premier's assault. Working toward an assembly vote of confidence which placed his government in jeopardy, Ramadier drew shouts of protest from the floor when he lumped de Gaulle among the enemies of the Republic and in attacking the Communists demanded the French Party should follow ends foreign to the safety of the country.

Sarcastically he referred to de Gaulle, resurgent political leader who has amassed astounding strength in recent municipal elections, as a modern Joan of Arc.

"It does not seem to me that someone on the order of Joan of Arc could become the head of a political party."

Addressing the packed Assembly to lunch the showdown debate on which his government's life will depend, white-bearded Ramadier declared: "Either we remain where we are in the salary issue or another wage boost will cause another price increase, particularly in agricultural prices, and who knows what economic results that will have?"

"We must at all costs stabilize wages and stabilize prices."

Police reinforcements were held in readiness outside the Assembly in case of disorders but only a couple of hundred bystanders watched the deputies' arrival for one of the most crucial debates in recent French history.

There were no barricades or armored cars near the Assembly building.

Ramadier said France is "going through a very difficult period" and he had called the special Assembly session sixteen days before its normal return from vacation to enable it to "participate in the government's worries and decisions".



End of Joseph Preuss Collection